



# STATE FOREST NOTES

Office of the State Forester  
Sacramento

No. 63

August, 1976

California Reforestation - A Status Report

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Fig. 1. A portion of the 1973 Granite Burn in Tuolumne County belonging to Pickering Lumber Corporation, sub of Fibreboard Corporation is being reforested by a corporation crew.

California's reforestation situation is like a changing cloud cover following a slow moving storm--there are increasing numbers of bright breaks in the overcast; however, dark cloudy problem areas still persist. The potential for increasing productivity of California forests is great. There is

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a backlog of 1,252,000 non-stocked acres, 493,000 of which are on federal and other public lands, and 759,000 acres on private lands. Of the private lands needing restocking 188,000 acres are owned by forest industry and 571,000 by farmers and miscellaneous kinds of owners of small acreages.<sup>2/</sup> The total acreage makes up over 7 percent of the commercial forest land in the state.

California is currently artificially reforesting by tree planting and seeding about 60,000 acres annually. This is nearly equally divided between federal, and state and private ownerships; however, most of this effort is devoted to prevent current harvested areas from becoming non-stocked. Little of the backlog particularly on private land is being reforested. Figure 2 shows the annual reforestation trend on state and private land since 1962 in terms of tree planted acres. In 1972 this trend was projected on the basis of acres reforested between 1962 and 1971. It will be noted that that projection was much too conservative.

There is an increasing demand for planting stock which is encouraging. How much is this demand going to increase in the future? Who will produce this stock? Will it be the Division of Forestry, the federal government, or private nurseries? In order for the Division to chart its course in producing

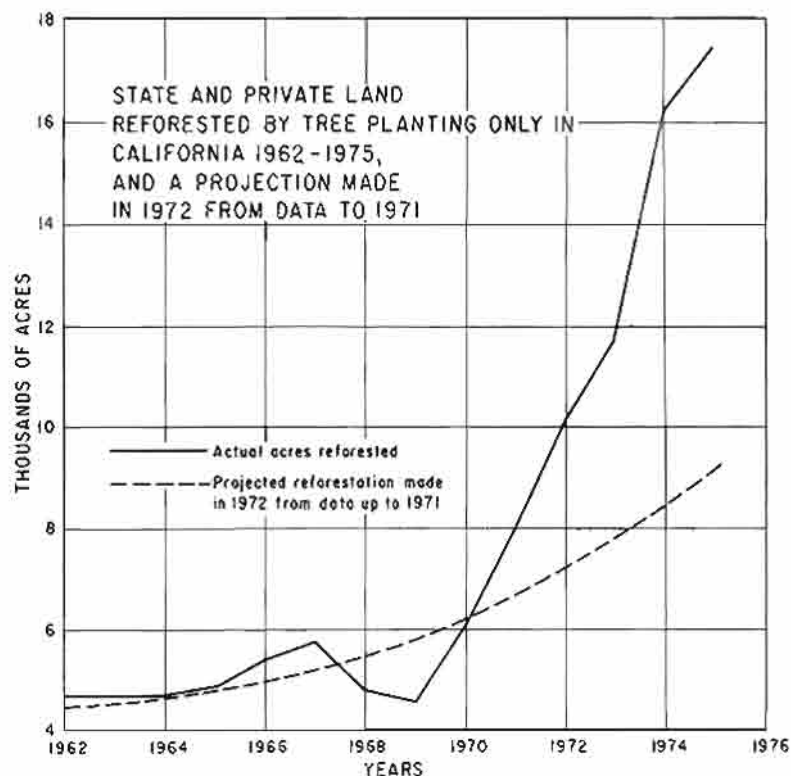


Fig. 2. The reforestation situation in California, 1962 to 1975.

<sup>2/</sup> U. S. Forest Service. 1973. The Outlook for Timber in the United States. Forest Resource Report No. 20. October, 1973. 367 pp.

stock, a reforestation needs survey was made in 1973.<sup>3/</sup> Contacts made in the survey included 19 large forest landowners with manufacturing plants, 3 large forest owners growing timber only, 6 forest consultants, one industry association member, and 3 Division of Forestry forest advisors. At the time of the survey (1973) it was found that 11,600 acres of private land had been reforested that year by tree planting. Projecting to 1978 it was estimated that annual planting would amount to 19,000 acres. By mid-1975 it was found that already the annual planting was amounting to 23,000 acres, and that an updating of the survey was necessary. Figure 3 indicates the new situation both estimated and actual.

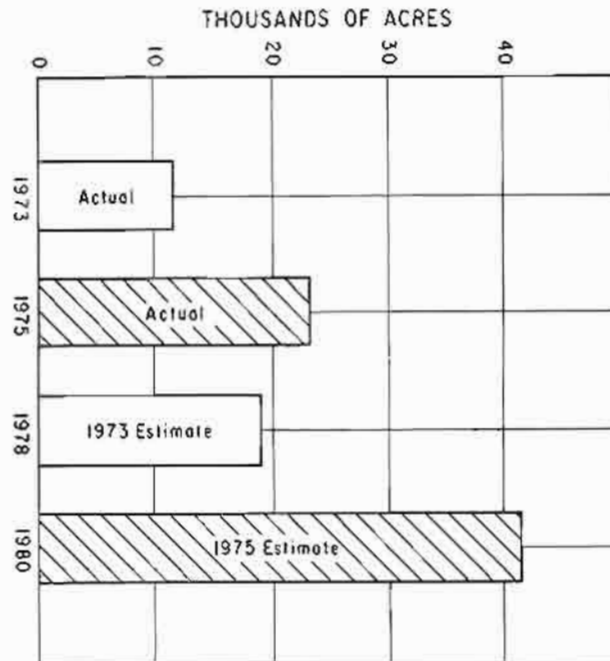


Fig. 3. The actual and estimated private land reforestation situation in California in terms of acres planted. Estimate of acres to be planted in 1978 was made in 1973; and that for planting in 1980 was made in 1975.

Data collected both in 1973 and 1975 included acres planted per year, number of trees planted, primary species used, acres seeded, current nursery production, and projections for 1980. Data for large forest ownerships are relatively reliable; however, because of the large numbers of small forest owners, and the difficulty in contacting the owners, only rough estimates were possible for these kinds of properties. Species being used now and those planned for the future include our primary timber producers--Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine with some redwood, white fir, Jeffrey pine and Monterey pine. Table 1

<sup>3/</sup> California Division of Forestry. 1973. California reforestation needs survey. Report on file, Sacramento. 7 pp.

summarizes the data collected. U. S. Forest Service reforestation work and nursery production were not included in the survey since most planting on national forests is done with stock from Forest Service nurseries. Stock from these nurseries can be made available to the state for resale to private landowners only if it is surplus to the needs of national forests. This is not a substantial amount.

Reforestation on state land was not included in the projections since there is very little state owned forest land in California, and very little of this is unstocked. Less than 100 acres are being reforested each year.

It is encouraging to note the rapid increase in reforestation work that has been done and that is contemplated. It will be seen in table 1 that 1980 nursery production will amount to 24.6 million trees, while reforesting will require about 20.6 million. Undoubtedly, some of this stock will be sold out-of-state. However, it is also possible that there may be some over-production by that time. It is still uncertain what effect the forest practice stocking regulations will have on seedling demand by 1980.

Table 1. Status of private land reforestation in California.

	Year		
	1973	1975	1980
Acres planted per year <sup>a/</sup>	11,600	23,000	41,900
No. trees planted (MM)	5.5	10.5	20.6
Acres seeded per year	19,777	1,525	1,100
Seedlings produced (MM) <sup>b/</sup>			
State	4.7	4.1	4.0
Private	3.0	6.4	20.6

a/ Data are compiled from personal contacts, mostly with foresters managing large properties, and best estimates of planting on small forest owner-ships from nursery production statistics and forest advisor contacts with a limited number of owners.

b/ Exclusive of trees produced for Christmas trees, farm windbreaks, erosion control and watershed protection.